I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings

Short Answer Study Questions

Chapters 1-6

1. In what style is the book written?
2. What happened to Marguerite at Church?
3. What was Marguerite’s dream of what she would one day look like?
4. With whom did Marguerite and Bailey live at the beginning of the book? Why?
5. How does the author say she felt in later years about the stereotyped picture of gay song-singing cotton-pickers, and why?
6. What happened that caused Uncle Willie to “lay low” one night?
7. Describe Marguerite’s relationship with Bailey.
8. Describe the living conditions for the whites and Blacks in Stamps.
9. Describe the experience Momma had with the “powhitetrash” children when Marguerite was ten years old.
10. Describe the second incident with Sister Monroe, and its effect on Marguerite and Bailey.